

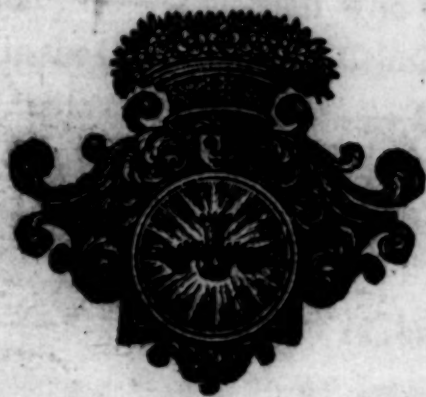
104
A
CAVEAT

Against concluding this

L
Great Britain
Parliament
app
SESSION

WITH AN

ACT of INDEMNITY.



LONDON:

Printed for T. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-*
noster-row. MDCCXLIII.

[Price 6 d.]

C A V E A T

Against concluding the

S E S S I O N

W I T H A N

A C T O F I N D E M N I T Y .

46
1 A

316



L O N D O N :
Printed for the
at the Office in Pall-mall.
M D C C X L I I I .
J. M. D. N.



A

CAVEAT, &c.

THE Author of all our Disgraces,
—of all our Oppressions,—begins
to lift up his impious Head:—

Again he seems to make a Jest of publick
Justice.—Who could have thought this ?
The Man who a Year ago was crying out
for Mercy :—The Man who was looked
upon in the Condition of a Criminal already
under Sentence of Death :—That such a
Man should in so short a Time give him-
self the Airs of the Head and Leader of a
Faction !

To see such a Monster of Iniquity and
Corruption, not only escape capital Punish-
ment, but continue in the quiet Possession
of the Plunder of twenty Years:—No
Account rendered :—No Restitution made
to the Publick.—Instead of seeing him

B

stript,

stript, degraded, and made a lasting Example to deter all future bad Men from committing the like Crimes, to see him go off honoured, rewarded; nay the very inferior Tools and Instruments of his wicked Measures left hanging upon the Publick, and, like so many Leeches still drawing off the Remainder of our vital Spirits, is a Circumstance that hath made every honest Heart in the Nation sick.

Not to carry this Declamation too far, let us consider Matters with Temper and Moderation.

We are told, that Things are not so bad as they are generally represented:—Some of those in whom we lately placed our greatest Confidence, assure us, That Punishment still hangs over this Man,—That if we will but have a little Patience, Vengeance may still overtake him.—That those who forced him out of Power, have no Tenderneſs either for his Person or his Crimes.—That if they did not push the late Attempt to bring him to Justice, it was because they were morally ſure, it could

could not then succeed according to the Expectations of the Publick : That they knew there was a determined Resolution in a certain Place to protect him ; and that therefore they were for deferring the Attack, and like good Soldiers, keeping back their Fire, till they could make Use of it to do some Execution : That the Chain of Corruption being in the mean Time broke by his Removal from Power, all that the Nation has a just Reason to expect from the new Ministers will soon be done ; and the Constitution eased of it's Burthen, will be able to work it's own Cure.

All this is said, and I hope, it is all true. I hope, our new Ministers are not endeavouring to impose either upon themselves, their Friends, or their Country.—It is not our Business to condemn them as long as there can be Room to hope, that they mean to set Things right.—Not to lay too great a Load therefore upon them, let us acquit them of being as yet criminal, yet sure it must be owned,

that their Conduct hath in some Respects been a little unfortunate. However, as there is still Room to mend past Errors, let us give them still a little Forbearance for the Debts they owe to their Country; but in the mean Time, they must give us Leave to declare our Apprehensions of what may be the Consequence of the fatal Reprieve (to call it by no worse a Name) lately given to this Man.

With Regard to these Apprehensions, I must first premise, that though this Man is removed from Business, the World cannot be persuaded, he is removed from Power.—There are but too many disagreeable Circumstances in our Affairs, which smell strong of his Influence.—If it be so, we may assure ourselves, he will not be content with a bare Reprieve; for notwithstanding the strange Power made use of to stifle and suppress all Kind of Evidence, such a Load of Guilt has come to Light against him, as leaves no Room for Mercy in the Eyes of the People — Besides, The Profuseness of his Ex-
pence,

pence, the Splendor of his Palaces, and the Magnificence of his Furniture, is a sufficient Proof of his Plunder.—He was known to be in distressed Circumstances when he first came into Power.—He has since constantly lived at a Rate above what his Family Estate and the just Profits of his Employments could afford; and yet his Domesticks shew you, by Way of Ostentation, a Gallery in one of his Palaces, with *four score thousand Pounds*, hung up against the Walls.

For these Reasons, He is considered already as a Convict:—The People think, that nothing but the Formality of a Trial is wanting to do his Business.—In spite of his affected Tranquillity and natural Impudence his Heart akes, and must ake as long as the Sword is kept hanging over his Head.—Is it not natural for him to endeavour to change that uneasy and dangerous Situation?—Will he not move Heaven and Earth to be safe? No doubt he will.—I think therefore, we may expect to see one or other of these two Things attempted:

attempted: Either that a collusive Trial will be set on Foot, that he may be acquitted by a Farce of Justice, or an Act of Indemnity will be brought in.——

Which ever of the two is thought most adviseable, in all Probability, it will be attempted by surprize, perhaps towards the latter End of this very Session, when the Departure of the Country Gentlemen (according to their usual unhappy Custom) leaves the Courtiers Masters of the Field, by which Means the People are generally awed into a Submission, by the Appearance of a formidable Majority upon every Question.——No Man, therefore, can do a better Piece of Service to his Country, than to alarm his Fellow-Subjects, and put them upon their Guard against an Attempt which, if it succeeds, will certainly throw us into Confusion, or put a final End to our Liberties.

If we should be so unhappy as to see an Attempt of this Nature succeed, it must be brought about by Means of a Treaty betwixt the Criminal and the new Ministers,

Ministers, or by a Treaty betwixt him and the Persons of whom the Country Party is now composed; but whoever they may be that shall negotiate with this Man for that Purpose, or indeed for any Purpose, will be in a Conspiracy against the Liberties of their Country.

In vain will it be for our new Ministers to urge, that Government is not now carried on by Corruption:—That they intend to keep up no standing Armies in Time of Peace:—That they ask for no Votes of Credit:—That they screen no publick Thieves:—That they enter into none of those Measures to rob the Nation, annually practised by the late *Premier*.—An Act of Indemnity will be productive of all these, and much greater Evils.—They may plead their good Intentions as much as they please:—If once they remove the Sword from over this Man's Head, they may depend upon it they never can, from that very Minute, be the Authors of any right Measure.—He will not suffer them to gain Reputation.

—Do they imagine that he, who would not leave the Appearance of Power, no not so much as the vain empty Shadow of Power, to those who were all along supporting his destructive Measures, will be content to share it with those who have been instrumental in reducing him to his present dangerous Circumstances?—Sure no Man can think he will.

As for my Part, when I consider in what Manner an Indemnity given to this Man must affect the new Ministers themselves, I should not call them Knaves, should they come into it, because another Name would more properly belong to them.

—If they should be seduced to consent to this Measure, upon the Expectation of Favour at Court, there is a Meanness in them which I could not suspect.—If they are drawn into it, upon the Promise of enjoying what the World thinks they want, that is, the Power of doing some Good for their Country, they will be most egregiously deceived.

Do they fancy that this Man will retire, thanking those that have saved him, and think no more of publick Affairs? If they do, they do not know the Man.——

We see, that Mens Foibles and Passions will enter into Affairs of the greatest Importance.——There never was a Time

when it concerned this Man so much, to carry himself with Prudence and Caution, as at his going off the Stage, yet nothing could keep him within the Bounds of Discretion or common Decency:——His

Vanity,——the Insolence of his Temper,——got the better of him.——When it was

his Business to soften the publick Resentment,——when it was his Interest to persuade the World, he had no Power left,

——we saw him, like *Alexander the Great*, parcelling out the Kingdom amongst his Followers. —— Royal Favours, which

might have been privately granted and accepted, he refused; those which he knew would make a *Pracas*, he not only accepted

but insisted on.——At the very last Gasp of his supposed expiring Power, what

extravagant Grants to the most obnoxious of his Tools!——What ridiculous Honours to some whom we know not by what Name to call!——Do we not remember, that the very Day after the last Session concluded, when the Report of the secret Committee was in every Hand, when the whole Nation was reading an Account of little scandalous Robberies committed by him :——Upon that very Day, I say, when one would think, he should have sought out some Cave under Ground to have hid his Shame, did he shew himself at Court, giving himself such preposterous Airs, as made all thinking Men pity the Weakness of his Understanding, while those of his Tools who had a Grain of Sense blushed for him.

These Things are mentioned only to shew, what is to be expected from him :——They are brought in to prove, that if we judge by the Nature of the Man, we may depend upon it, he never will quit the Thoughts of Power but with his Life.——I would ask our new Ministers, whether

whether removing his Fears, and placing him in Safety, will cure his Vanity and correct the Insolence of his Temper?—

Sure, they cannot impose upon themselves so far as to believe, it can have this Effect. Yes, but some People will say, that his Gratitude for so great a Deliverance, will oblige him to give up every Thing to his Benefactors.——I shall take the Liberty of answering this with a homely old Proverb, *Save a Thief from the Gallows and he will cut your Throat.*——Can they so

soon forget, that on the very Day when this Reprieve was granted him, were they abused by this Man and his scribbling Tools?

——He attacks those very Persons with Lies and Calumnies to whose Lenity it is owing that he lives, and for which they lost the warm Hearts of most of their Countrymen.——Let them take this as a Specimen of his Gratitude.

We know by Experience that this Man will bear no Rival in Power, and that he is full of that Jealousy, so common to weak pretending Men, of hating those who ap-

pear to have superior Abilities : They must be Underlings : If they have not, they must affect to have a Capacity far inferior to his :——Suppose our new Ministers, after they have saved him from that Punishment he highly deserves, and restored him to that Power he never did, nor ever can deserve ; I say, suppose our new Ministers should in this Case submit to become the infamous Tools of his future Administration, they will not be allowed to act even this scandalous Part.——An ungrateful Man naturally hates those, who, he knows, may justly accuse him of Ingratitude : He can never be at Ease till they are removed out of his Sight ; and this our new Ministers must expect, if he ever again mounts the Saddle.

It will be perceived, that I am arguing all this while, as if I took it for granted, that this Man's Restoration to Power, must be the certain Consequence of an Act of Indemnity.—I own I am.——I think a Man must wilfully shut his Eyes against the Light that does not see it.——Even

now,

now, though he stands behind the Scene, 'tis plain he directs every Thing upon the Stage.——Two late Promotions manifestly shew, that his Influence prevails in the Disposal of all Offices, from the highest to the lowest *.——An Act of Indemnity will bring him again upon the Stage, to direct all our Affairs as openly and arbitrarily as before; and when I consider our present Circumstances, I think, I have Cause to apprehend the near Approach of this publick Misfortune.——We see the Friends of the Nation divided:——There is no longer the same Harmony which drove him from the avowed Possession of Power:——Jealousies and Distrusts have got footing amongst them.——If these Things continue, they must turn to the Advantage of the common Enemy; and private Animosity will destroy all that hath been done by publick Spirit.

* Mr. Jones, whose Father is Servant to the Earl of Oxford. *D. Advertiser*, Jan. 20. Mr. Hume, Brother to Alex. Hume, Esq; Petitioner at the late famous *Chippinham* Election. *St. James's Evening-Post*, December 30.

The Nation looked for Relief from the new Ministers.——Things have not answered Expectation, and the People grow out of Humour with them.——They, on the other Side, think themselves ill used : They complain that, instead of being assisted and supported, they are exposed, calumniated, weakened, and left to themselves.——Whither will these ill Humours hurry us ?——Cannot any Body see the Ruin they must bring upon us ?——We are giving an Opening to the common Enemy :——We are tempting him to return to his Post ; and nothing but an Act of Indemnity is wanting, to bring this Plague upon us again, which may soon happen, unless Providence should interpose to heal these unhappy Jealousies.

The new Ministers complain, that they entered upon publick Business by the Consent of the whole Nation ; that they took Possession of the Government, as a Party that is detached from a grand Army, takes Possession of a deserted Camp, not for themselves but for the common Cause ;

edT

but

but that looking about, thinking their Friends were following them, they found themselves left at the Mercy of the Enemy, by those who had hitherto backed and encouraged them. — From this Time they say, they have been pulled to Pieces for not doing that which the Conduct of their own Friends had disabled them from doing, and that these are Causes sufficient for putting them out of Humour.

That the Nation hath been most cruelly disappointed is clear: To whose Charge these Disappointments are to be laid, perhaps is not quite so clear. — The Friends of the new Ministers must own, that they have suffered some wrong Things to be done, and that many right Things expected of them are still left undone. — Whether all this be owing to their not being supported by their Friends, I will not determine. — But suppose the People who have suffered so long, and been so cruelly disappointed, should (for Want of seeing the Inside of Things) suspect those that are not guilty, can this provoke our new Ministers

nisters to throw off all Concern for the publick Good?—Will they make their distressed Country feel the Effects of their Resentment, by a League with it's worst Enemy?—Would they owe even Power itself, however bewitching it may be, to any infamous Bargain with one whom they themselves have represented as a Monster of Corruption? I cannot think so ill of them.

As to the Gentlemen who make up what is now called the Country Party, they still sit high in the People's Favour.—May they always do so.—May there be at all Times a Number of Gentlemen of Fortune so happy in their Characters, as to possess the Hearts of their Countrymen; for such must always be a Check upon a corrupt Administration; and although they should not be strong enough at all Times to do Good, they may prevent Mischief.—May they oppose every bad Measure of the present Men in Power, but may neither Spleen nor Revenge carry them so far, as to have any Dealings, any Correspondence

response with the common Enemy.
 —No Doubt, this Job might be done for him more effectually and more easily by them, than by the new Ministers without them; for whoever they are that are to do it, will have the Honour of the whole Crew of publick Plunderers for Allies and Assistants.——If ever they should be so infatuated as to treat with him, they are lost to their Country, and must expect from that Minute, to become the Objects of universal Hatred.

As their whole Conduct hath been remote from private Interest, let not Spleen and Revenge against the new Ministers, push them upon that which all the Temptations of a Court could never prevail upon them to do.——If the Enemy finds the new Ministers resolute to oppose him, no doubt but those of the Country Party will be applied to:——All Artifices will be made use of to work upon their Passions:——It is not to be doubted, but he hath long had some concealed Friends amongst them:——Men who never appeared for
 D him,

him, but have all along endeavoured to weaken the Opposition, by creating Jealousies and Divisions:——These will work for him:——They must do it ; for he has them by scandalous Secrets.——If these can inflame the present Jealousy betwixt the new Ministers and the Country Party :——If they can exasperate either of these Parties to think of Revenge, the Job will be done for him by the other ; and then he walks in again, without any farther Trouble.

To the Misfortune of the Nation, his Power hath lasted so long, that almost every Employment in the three Kingdoms, great and small, hath been filled up by him.——All these People will co-operate with either Side for his Return, by Means of a general Indemnity.——The felonious Practices that had crept into every Office, were not simply pardoned, they were encouraged and protected.——Many of these People have Reason to fear, if he is not brought back, not only that they must follow him, but that they may suffer for
past

past Sins.——They may apprehend, that as long as Punishment hangs over him, some farther Villainies may be opened, which it is extremely their Interest to prevent.——Besides these, Rogues of all other Denominations, down to those that infest the Passages of the Play-house: In fine, all that can expect Impunity and Indulgence in a loose, disorderly, and corrupt Administration, will be glad to see him again in Power.

The Pilfering lately discovered in an Office of very high Trust, has given all publick Pilferers the Alarum.——I wish the Indulgence the Offender has met with may not give Encouragement to the Practice for the future.——It is very strange, that a Clerk in an Office should have an Opportunity to pilfer 16,000*l.* from the Publick, which is said to be the Sum this Clerk is charged with.——It is very strange, he should have continued his felonious Practice for so many Years without a Discovery.——But it is much more strange, that when a Discovery was made,

a Dismission from his Office should be his only Punishment; and that when an Account was desired, his Superiors should hold themselves satisfied with his answering, that he could not, because his Books and Papers had been burnt.——We may now guess why a Cart Load of Books and Papers were carried from a certain Office, and made a Bonfire of in the Road to *Hackney*, soon after our Affairs in Parliament began last Winter to take a new Turn.——If this Clerk had been poor, the Lightness of his Punishment might have been imputed to Mercy, but as he is rich, Justice surely required Restitution; and Justice will prevail if the Patron of publick Plunderers be not restored to Power.——This is what they all know, and this will make them all join with any Party in Measures for that Purpose.

But it is to be hoped, that those who are yet innocent, will consider well the dangerous Consequences, both with Respect to themselves and their Country, before they allow themselves to be tempted

to join in any such Measure.——The whole People united against this Man and his Accomplices, because they see plainly that the State must perish in the Hands of one who has no Abilities to govern, nor any one Art of Government except that of Corruption alone.——If the evil Genius of *England* should bring him again upon the Stage, it is easy to foresee, that Confusion or Slavery must follow.——He and his new as well as old Confederates may flatter themselves, that as the Nation bore him so long, it will bear him again; but before they are sure of this, let them distinguish betwixt our different Circumstances.

When this Man was before in Power, the People saw an Opposition well conducted, from whence they expected Relief:——They were kept in continual Hopes of seeing an End of their Grievances, and of having the Author of them punished, without being obliged to have Recourse to violent Methods. But these Hopes will be no more, when they find a Door opened for bringing him in again upon them:——

A Door,

A Door, I say, opened by those whom the People trusted to keep him out:—— When they see Men seduced, by the Love of Power, or to gratify Spleen and Malice, from the Pursuit of publick Good, and tempted to join in saving their worst Enemy, they will trust no more to Parliaments, and Necessity will force them to take Care of themselves; for I may venture to prophesy, that the Nation will never bear to be trampled under the Feet of a Man, saved from the Gallows by an Act of Indemnity.

I know many have a Notion, that the People have been so long oppressed and daunted with Taxes and standing Armies, that they have lost all Courage, that there is no such Thing as a military Spirit left amongst them, and that there is therefore no Fear of their having Recourse to Arms.—— This is an Opinion that hath long prevailed:——It is what encouraged some abandoned Men to support the late Minister in all his wicked Measures:——It was this Opinion that made them venture to follow him

him through all his dirty Ways.——They thought they were in no Danger from any violent Methods, and as they supposed the Majority of the Nation as abandoned as themselves, they thought they were in no Danger from any Legal.——In the latter of these two Opinions they have found themselves mistaken; and should all Hopes of legal Relief be put an End to, they may find themselves as much mistaken in the former.

I have already shewn the Difference of our Circumstances when this Man was last in Power, from what they will be should he ever return.——I may strengthen what I have said upon that Subject by the Observation of a wise Man, *That when a People who have been long oppressed, are put in Hopes of Relief, and are disappointed, their Despair always takes a violent Turn.*——There are Examples of this in many Countries.——The People will no Doubt bear a great deal; but there are Bounds beyond which Patience will not go; and that is when they find, they can expect no Relief
from

from the Laws or Constitution of their Country.

But suppose the People should be kept in Subjection, and this Man supported in his recovered Power, by a corrupt Parliament and a numerous mercenary Army, will he not then be *able*, and no Man, I believe, doubts his *Will*, to destroy our Liberties as effectually as Cardinal *Mazarin* did the *French*.——The Circumstances of *France*, and the last Struggles made by the People for their Liberties during the Administration of that weak and wicked Prime Minister, so nearly resemble the present Circumstances of this Nation, that I cannot conclude this Caveat better than by giving a short Account of that Piece of History.

It is very remarkable, that the first Thing which raised the Indignation of the People against that blundering Minister, was an *Excise-Scheme*. The Liberties of the Nation had been in a great Measure suppressed by the former Minister :——The People were in a Sort of Lethargy : The Parliament, at the Desire of the Court, had

had passed many Laws destructive not only to private People but to the Publick ; — and the Ministers were so abandoned as to declare openly, *That Honesty was fit only for Tradesmen, and not to be thought of in any Affairs relating to the Publick ;* upon which the famous Cardinal *de Retz* makes this Remark, *That when Governors lose all Shame, the Governed lose all Respect, and it is usually at such a Time as this that the People recover of their Lethargy by falling into Convulsions.* — These were the Circumstances of *France* in the Year 1647, when an Edict was sent to be registred, that is to say, passed in Parliament, for laying an *Excise* upon all Provisions brought into the City of *Paris*. — The Parliament, which for several Years had done every Thing the Court bid them, refused to pass this Edict ; so that the Court was obliged to drop it, and to give over levying the *Excise* proposed. — This began a Dispute between the Court and Parliament, which at last produced a Sort of Civil War, commonly called the *Barricades of Paris*.

E

Though

Though the Court had a numerous Army at it's Command :— Though that Army had just obtained a notable Victory over the *Spaniards* in *Flanders*, and was commanded by one of the greatest Generals of the Age, I mean the Prince of *Condé*; yet all this could not so terrify the People as to prevent their flying to Arms, when they found that nothing else would do; and the Minister might, perhaps, then have been sacrificed, but he was saved at that Time by the Divisions among the Chiefs of the People, and the Conduct of the Prince of *Condé*.— Did he alter his Measures, or shew any Gratitude to the Prince? So far otherwise, that in less than a Year he got both the Prince and his Brother committed to Prison; and he continued to incense the Parliament and provoke the People as much as ever: He had the Cardinal *de Retz*, and some others, accused of treasonable Practices, and prosecuted in Parliament upon the Evidence of false and suborned Witnesses; and he neglected the Prosecution of the War then carrying on against *Spain*. By

By these Measures, and by his ingrossing so entirely the Ear of the Queen Regent, he united all Parties against him. Even the Duke of Orleans, first Prince of the Blood, and presumptive Heir of the Crown, declared openly against him; and though the Minister set all his Engines to work, in order to regain the Duke, he could not prevail; but on the contrary, his Royal Highness, by the Advice of the Parliament, returned for Answer to the Queen Regent, who had sent to invite him to Court, *that he would wait on her in the most dutiful Manner, as soon as the Princes were at Liberty, and the Cardinal removed from the King's Presence and from his Councils; and the very same Day the Parliament voted, almost unanimously, an Address to the King, praying, that he would order the Princes to be set at Liberty, and that he would remove Cardinal Mazarin from his Councils and Presence; for the Parliament of Paris did not, it seems, think, that it was necessary to have a Proof of any Crime, as a Foundation for such an Address.*

This came like a Thunder-clap upon the Minister.—— Upon this he quite lost his Courage, and though he got the Queen to return a haughty Answer to the Parliament, yet that very Night he stole out of *Paris* in Disguise, without taking the Queen Regent or the young King along with him.—— But as he retired only to *St. Germain's*, the Parliament soon after issued an Arret, by which *he was ordered to depart the Kingdom and all the Places under his Majesty's Dominion, in fifteen Days, with all his Relations and Domestick Servants that were Foreigners; or in Default thereof, to be proceeded against as Criminals, with Leave to all his Majesty's Subjects to attack and destroy them.* In Obedience to this the Cardinal departed the Kingdom, and the Princes being set at Liberty, they came to *Paris*, and took their Seats in Parliament as usual.

Thus one would think, that the Country Party in *France* had got a complete Victory, and that the Liberties of the Nation would consequently be secured upon a solid

solid and lasting Foundation. — But alas! They had done their Business but by halves. — They had removed the Minister : — They had even banished him out of the Kingdom : — Nay farther, they had set a Price upon his Head, if he ever returned : — But his Creatures and Tools still remained in most of the publick Employments, especially at Court, by which Means the Cardinal, though he was 300 Miles distant, directed all the Affairs of the Nation ; for nothing of Importance was resolved on by the Queen and her select Council, till a Courier was sent to the Cardinal for his Advice. — The Princes and Parliament soon became sensible of this. — The Queen Regent continued obstinate ; — The two Parties in the Opposition, instead of joining in Measures for overcoming her Obstinacy, rather confirmed her in it, by entering separately into Negotiations with her. — And this revived again the Flames of a Civil War, which became much more general and bloody

bloody than it had been before. — In this War the Princes of the Blood, the Parliament, and a great Majority of the People, were united against the Court; and the Discontents of the People were very much aggravated by the Cardinal's being called back to Court, and re-instated in his former Post, even during the Continuance of the War. — In these Circumstances one would imagine, that the Country-Party might easily have got the better; but as this Party consisted of two distinct Parties, to wit, that of the Duke of Orleans, and that of the Prince of Condé, the Minister craftily applied to them separately for an Accommodation, and both were unluckily caught in the Snare. — By this Means he sowed Jealousies and Distrusts between them, so that they could never heartily join in any Measures even for their own Safety, much less for the Safety of their Country, and the Party at last dwindled away to nothing. — The Court returned triumphantly to *Paris*, got quiet Possession of the whole Kingdom, without

without having ever gained one remarkable Victory by their Arms, or agreeing to any Terms, either for securing the Liberties of the People, or indemnifying those that had taken Arms in their Defence.

The Minister being thus restored to the full Possession of his Power, began then to shew the Insolence of his Temper:—

The Prince of *Condé* had taken Care to retire in Time, but the very next Day after the Court's Return, the Duke of *Orleans* was banished to *Limours*, and no less than twelve Members of Parliament were banished from *Paris*; and though the Queen owned that her Return to *Paris* was very much owing to the Cardinal de *Retz*, yet he was soon after taken up and imprisoned, from whence he at last made his Escape, and retired to *Rome*.—The royal Authority was then raised to it's highest Pinnacle:—The Parliament was forbid to meddle with any Matters of State;—and ever since, it has been obliged to pass all such Laws as are sent thither by the King. These were the Misfortunes

which the Country Party brought upon themselves and their Country, by their Jealousies and Divisions, and by entering into separate Negotiations with the Minister.——This fatal Catastrophe was owing to a Want of publick Spirit in the Chiefs of both the Parties opposite to the Court.——They had all a Hatred to the Minister; but none of them had such a true Love for their Country as to sacrifice their own private Views to the Re-establishment of it's Liberties.——For this Purpose, it was certainly necessary to have convoked a general Assembly of the States of the Kingdom, in order, by their Authority, to have such Regulations established as were necessary for limiting the Power of the Crown, and settling the publick Liberty upon a solid and impene-trable Foundation.——But this the Leaders of both Parties were averse to, for private Reasons of their own.——The Princes of the Blood were against it; because they thought, a Diminution of the royal Power would diminish their Splendor and
Influ-

Influence:—The Parliament were against it; because they thought, such an Assembly regularly established, would derogate from their Dignity and Authority;—and the Cardinal *de Retz* was against it; because he had probably a View of succeeding to be Prime Minister, in Case of *Mazarin's* Death; for though he refused that Post when it was offered him by the Queen, during the Cardinal's Banishment, it was not, because he did not long for it:

—He himself gives another very substantial Reason: *Royal Favour*, says he, is never to be played with. One cannot embrace it too closely if it be real, nor keep too far off from it if it be dissembled.

Thus the general Interest of the Country was sacrificed to the particular Views of the several Leaders; and the Noblemen and Gentlemen of each Party, sought only how they might most successfully promote their private Interest.—By this the Liberties of *France* were overturned,—the Leaders of both the Parties in Opposition to the Court sacrificed,—and the most hateful

all Ministers restored to Power.——The Effect will be the same in this Country, if private Views, either of Ambition, Interest, or Resentment, be allowed to prevail over the Publick ; therefore, I hope, every Man who is not resolved to be the Slave or Tool of a Prime Minister, will unite in opposing an Act of Indemnity during this Session, to the End, that in the next Session, they may all unite in proper Methods for obtaining publick Justice, and securing publick Liberty.

F I N I S.



ne
if
t,
er
n
bl
g
o
y
k

—

n

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

n

o